

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1049

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

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TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND PRESENTS PROPOSALS
TO CONVENTION

REF: (A) BELFAST 312 (B) BELFAST 299

1. UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND (UPNI) PRESENTED ITS PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SHAPE OF GOVERNMENT NORTHERN IRELAND TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 3. BRIAN FAULKNER LED OFF DEBATE WITH OUTLINE PARTY PROPOSALS (REFTEL B): BRIEFLY, A PARLIAMENT ELECTED UNDER PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITH SECOND CHAMBER WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM FARMERS, TRADE UNIONS, CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, TENANTS AND COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATIONS TO ACT AS SOUNDING BOARD ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION. FAULKNER STRESSED PARTNERSHIP GOVERNMENT MUST MEAN INVOLVEMENT OF TWO MAIN COMMUNITIES AT THE TOP. ALL UPNI SPEAKERS URGED NECESSITY ACHIEVED DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT THROUGH CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SECURITY SITUATION. LORD BROOKEBOROUGH SUPPORTED UPNI PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTED AMERICAN SYSTEM OF ELECTING PRESIDENT BY ALL POPULATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN INTERIM AS ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT RULE. BROOKEBOROUGH SUGGESTED THAT QUEEN APPOINT GOVERNOR WITH AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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COMPRISED OF ULSTER PEOPLE WITH LEADERS OF THE PARTIES BEING

ASKED TO ADMINISTER PROVINCE. FAULKNER ENDORSED VOLUNTARY COALITION SYSTEM AND CALLED FOR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND REPUBLIC.

2. PROFESSOR KENNEDY LINDSAY WHO IS THE ONE-MAN UNITED DOMINION PARTY, CALLED FOR EITHER COMPLETE INTEGRATION WITH UNITED KINGDOM OR DOMINIONHOOD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

3. JOHN HUME CLARIFIED DEMANDS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) ON GUARANTEES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A VOLUNTARY GOVERNMENT (REFTEL A). HE SAID THAT AT NO STAGE HAD THERE BEEN ANY PRECONDITIONS IMPOSED BY SDLP. ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS SDLP, HE SAID, THOUGHT ONLY WAY OBTAIN GUARANTEES WAS THROUGH LEGISLATION, SDLP HAD AGREED EXPLORE OTHER MEANS TO OBTAIN GUARANTEES.

4. CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SETTLED CONTROVERSY ON WHETHER UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) REPRESENTATIVES OTHER THAN WILLIAM CRAIG IN INTER-PARTY TALKS WITH SDLP HAD AGREED TO EXPLORE VOLUNTARY COALITION. CONTRADICTING REV. WILLIAM BEATTIE, DEPUTY LEADER PAISLEY'S DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY, SIR ROBERT LOWRY MADE IT CLEAR UUUC NEGOTIATORS, ALONG WITH SDLP NEGOTIATORS, HAD ASKED HIM PREPARE DISCUSSION PAPER ON COALITION GOVERNMENT. CRAIG FOR FIRST TIME THEN CONFIRMED THIS. TACTICALLY, CRAIG'S EFFORTS TO RALLY SUPPORT WITHIN HIS OWN VANGUARD PARTY AND IN UUUC WILL BE ASSISTED BY THIS DISCLOSURE. REVELATION THAT OFFICIAL UNIONISTS AND DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS WERE AT ONE POINT AT LEAST WILLING EXPLORE VOLUNTARY COALITION PROPOSAL MAKES CRAIG LESS VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF SELL-OUT.
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